U.S. Application No.: 10/808,468

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

## LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A magnetic recording medium comprising:

a non-magnetic support and, in order thereon

a radiation-cured layer formed by curing a layer containing a radiation curing compound by exposure to radiation;

a middle layer having a non-magnetic powder dispersed in a binder (1), the middle layer being provided as necessary; and

at least one magnetic layer having a ferromagnetic powder dispersed in a binder (2);

the radiation curing compound having a hydroxyl group and a radiation curing functional group in the molecule; and

the magnetic layer having on the surface thereof a number of micro projections having a height of 10 to 20 nm measured by atomic force microscopy (AFM) of 5 to  $1,000/100 \, (\mu m)^2$ .

- 2. (currently amended): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 1, wherein the medium has at least one middle layer between the radiation-cured layer and the magnetic layer, the middle layer having a non-magnetic powder dispersed in a binder (1).
- 3. (original): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 1, wherein the radiation curing compound is a radiation curing compound (1) having 1 to 3 hydroxyl groups and 2 to 5 acryloyl groups or methacryloyl groups in the molecule.

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4. (original): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 3, wherein the radiation curing compound comprises the radiation curing compound (1) and a radiation curing compound (2) having a cyclic structure, an ether group, and two or more radiation curing functional groups in the molecule.

- 5. (original): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 4, wherein the radiation curing compound (2) has an acryloyl group as a radiation curing functional group.
- 6. (original): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 4, wherein the medium contains 10 wt % to 80 wt % of the radiation curing compound (2) relative to 100 wt % of the radiation curing compound (1).
- 7. (original): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 1, wherein the ferromagnetic powder is a ferromagnetic metal powder.
- 8. (original): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 1, wherein the ferromagnetic powder is a ferromagnetic hexagonal ferrite powder.
- 9. (currently amended): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim  $\frac{12}{2}$ , wherein the binder (1) and/or the binder (2) comprise a polyurethane resin.
- 10. (original): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 1, wherein the radiation curing functional group is an acryloyl group and/or a methacryloyl group.

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11. (original): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 1, wherein the

radiation-cured layer and/or the middle layer contain carbon black.

12. (original): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 1, wherein the

radiation-cured layer has a thickness of 0.1 to 1.0 μm.

13. (original): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 1, wherein the

magnetic layer has a thickness of 0.05 to 1.0 µm.

14. (original): The magnetic recording medium according to Claim 1, wherein the

middle layer has a thickness of 1.0 to 2.0  $\mu$ m.

15. (new): The magnetic recording medium according to claim 2, wherein the

magnetic layer is a single layer, the thickness thereof being 0.05 to 0.5  $\mu m$ .

16. (new): The magnetic recording medium according to claim 2, wherein the

magnetic layer is a single layer, the thickness thereof being 0.05 to 0.1  $\mu$ m.

17. (new): The magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the

magnetic layer comprises an antisatic agent such as carbon black.

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